DEVELOPMENT OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

September 2004

Outline of Presentation for Development of No Action Alternative

- **Purpose of No Action Alternative for EIR preparation**
- **Study Area**
- **Study Period**
- **Basis for No Action Alternative**
- **Identification of future facilities, operations, and policies to be included**

Purpose of No Action Alternative in EIR

- **Used as a Baseline for comparison of future conditions under each alternative to determine Beneficial and Adverse Impacts**
- **Used as Baseline for comparison of potential mitigation measures used to minimize impacts of alternatives**
- **Will be compared to the Existing Baseline Conditions**

No Action Alternative Definition

- **Conditions that would occur if Alternatives were not implemented**
- **Projected future growth and land uses**
- **Existing facilities and policies**
- **Assumptions for concurrent programs that will reflect a level of certainty**
- **Focused on projects and policies that could be impacted by alternatives**

Initial Study Area - Same as in Existing Baseline Conditions

- **Primary emphasis on Salton Sea Watershed**
- **Surrounding areas of the Salton Sea**
- **Limited consideration of Colorado River**
  - Alternatives not being considered to include land acquisition on the Colorado River to improve water quality of inflows (salinity, selenium, perchlorate, and other constituents)

Study Period

- **Consistent with QSA and Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Transfer = 45 years, 75 if renewed.**
- **Use 45 or 75 years?**
- **Need for an Interim No Action Alternative description???**
  - When Mitigation Water ceases to be delivered

Basis for No Action Alternative

- **Assume full implementation of all provisions in the QSA and IID/SDCWA Water Transfer proposed actions**
- **Projections for "reasonably certain" new facilities**
  - Planning and environmental documentation complete and adopted
  - Permit conditions reasonably known
  - Funding reasonably certain
- **Projections for "reasonably certain" changes in operations or policies**

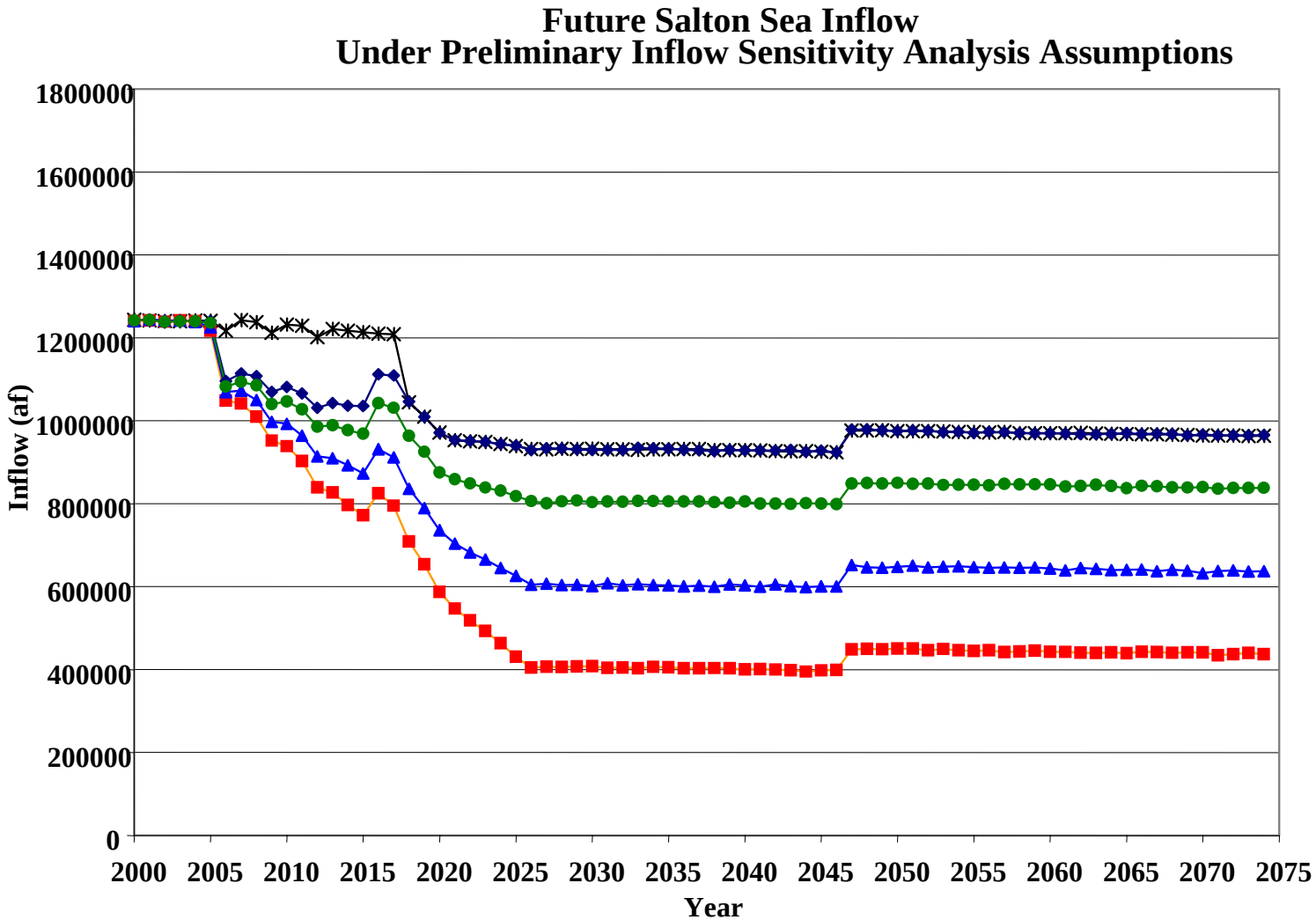
Projects/Policies that could Influence No Action Alternative

- **Other efforts could cause range in inflows**
  - Implementation of TMDLs
  - Water management in watershed, e.g. Coachella Valley historical variability
  - Wastewater/stormwater management in Mexico
  - Colorado River Salinity Management Programs
  - Climate in Colorado River watershed
- **Other influential projects**
  - Projects in Mexico could change air quality
- **Many factors cannot be easily quantified**
  - Nutrient and eutrophication of Salton Sea
  - Fish and Avian populations
- **Others?**

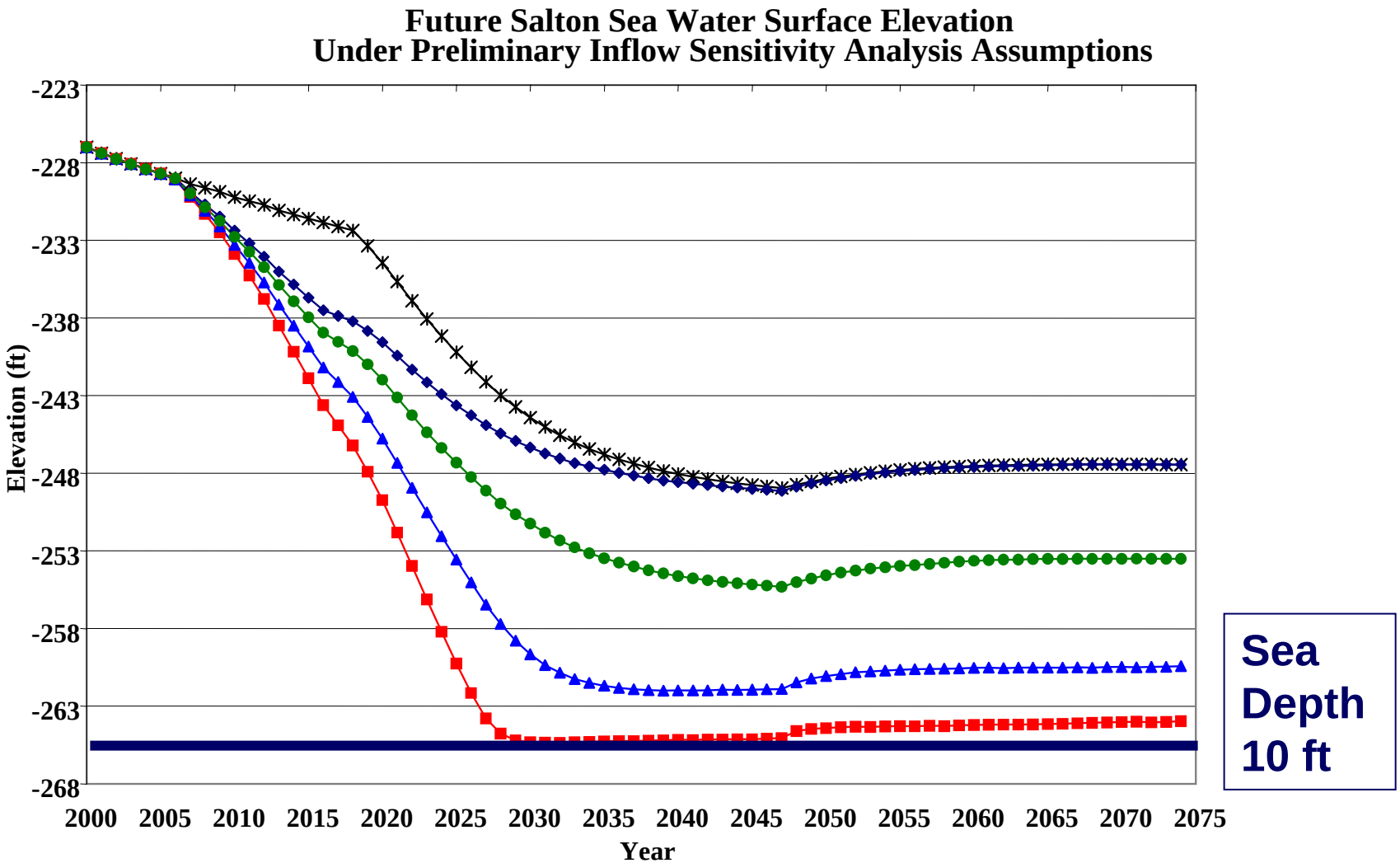
Incorporation of Items that May Lead to Variability

- **Identify actions that can be quantified and actions that will be described qualitatively**
- **Determine sensitivity of analytical tools that will be used in impact assessment**
  - Conduct "What if" scenarios with analytical tools
  - First example with Salton Sea Accounting Model by USBR

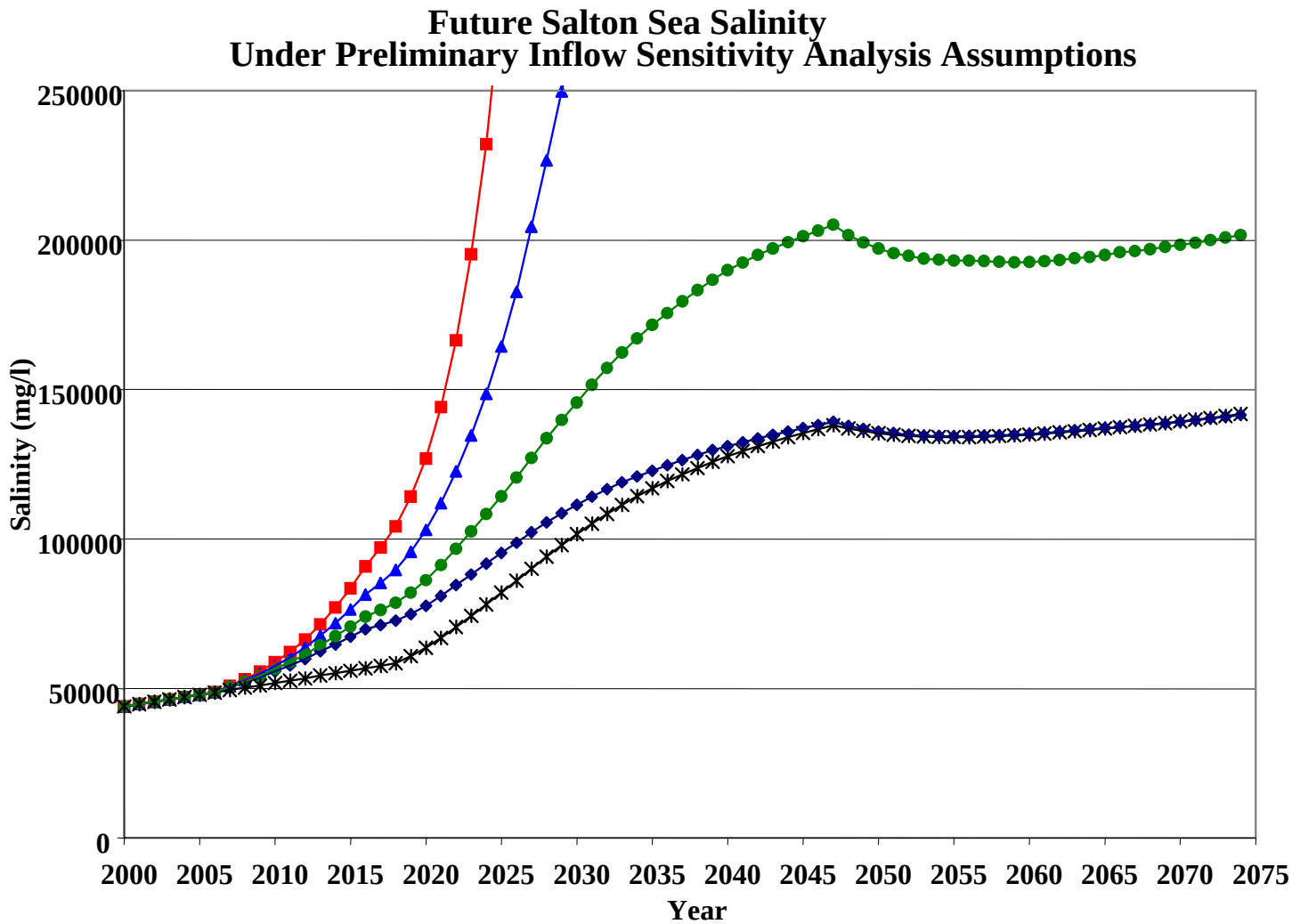
USBR helped with a "What If" Scenario: Inflows to Salton Sea



Inflow Changes of 200 TAF Led to Major Changes in Elevations



And Changes to Salinity...



Next Steps

- **Compile a description of No Action Alternative conditions from QSA and IID/SDCWA & IID/CVWD Transfers - and consider new information**
- **Review historical range of variability for each issue area**
- **Consider using a "range of conditions" to describe No Action Alternative - however this will make the document difficult to read and to use**